

LOON PAIR SURVEYS

Please complete a separate form for each loon pair observed

Lake Name: _____

Observer Name(s): _____

Lake Town(s): _____

Phone #: (____) _____ - _____

MIDAS #: _____ Lake Acres: _____

Email: _____

Find MIDAS number, lake acreage, and maps at <https://www.lakesofmaine.org/>

Survey Location: Please describe the area where you will observe one loon pair throughout the season, e.g., "Twin Island nesting pair, Broad Cove to Swim Rock."

Which partner(s) are you working with: Maine Audubon___ Maine Lakes___ Lakes Environmental Association___ Penobscot Nation___ Other _____

Have you worked with one of these partners to place a **loon raft** (artificial nesting platform) in this pair's breeding area? YES NO

*Each time you survey this loon pair, record your observations on one column of the table below (front and back page). Read the **Monitoring Instructions** carefully and see the **Reference Sheet** for pictures of loon behaviors and definitions of terms. Please take photos from a distance and submit them with your form.*

LOON OBSERVATIONS:							
Survey Date	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___	___/___/___
Start Time	: am/pm						
End Time	: am/pm						
Territorial Pair Present? Y/N <small>Are there two adults that regularly interact & defend a part of the lake?</small>							
If yes, list behavior(s) that led you to label them as a territorial pair? <small>See Monitoring Reference Sheet for Courtship & Territorial Behaviors</small>							
Leg Bands Observed? Which leg, what colors? (e.g. "L blue/red" stands for blue over red on left leg)	R ___/___ L ___/___						
Nesting Activity: What is the status of the nest? 1 -Nest building; 2 -Sitting on nest; 3 -One hatched, incubating other egg; 4 -Abandoned/Failed nest; 5 -Re-nesting (2nd or 3rd attempt); 6 -Chick(s) left nest; 7 -Unknown; 8 -Not nesting							
Known or suspected cause of nest failure? (elaborate in comments)							
#Eggs- if known, do not approach nest!							

LOON OBSERVATIONS (Continued)

Survey Date (cont.)	_/_/_	_/_/_	_/_/_	_/_/_	_/_/_	_/_/_	_/_/_
# Immature Loons — Not this year's chicks. Same size as adults but without black and white feathers							
# Single Adult Loons — Adults w/o a mate. Alone or in groups of 3 or more							
# Chicks Observed This year's young							
Chick Development Stage (1-3; see below)							



Adult with downy young

1. Downy Young are less than 1/3 adult length, have dark fluffy down, and may ride on parents backs. They are < 4 weeks old.



Adult with small young

2. Small Young are emerging juveniles, 1/3 to 2/3 adult length, have mix of brown down and smooth gray contour feathers. Do not ride on parent's back. 4-10 weeks.



Large young

3. Large Young— 2/3 adult length, full covering of light and dark gray feathers (no down). Still cared for and fed by parents. More than 10 weeks old.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

# of Boats Operating w/in 100' of Loons	Wake boats _____						
	Motorboats _____						
	Jet skis _____						
	Non-motorized _____						
# Eagles Observed							
Intruders? Y/N Are there other loons interacting with the pair?							

****Note:** If human or animal intrusions cause loons to leave the nest or their young, please fill out an **Incident Form** (attached or online: <https://arcg.is/aHGST>)

COMMENTS: Please provide any additional observations and any information reported by other lake users.

****Mark where you observed loons, nests, and any noteworthy events on your lake map.**

****Return this form with photos, map & Season Summary form below to loonrestoration@maineaudubon.org or enter online at: <https://arcg.is/reHeG>**

SEASON SUMMARY OF MAINE LOON TERRITORY OBSERVATIONS

Observer Name(s): _____

Lake Name: _____ Territory/Pair Name _____

SEASON SUMMARY: *(As information becomes available, fill in as much information as possible to “tell the story” of loon productivity and survival on your lake)*

Ice-out date: ____/____/____ First Loon Arrival Date: ____/____/____ Total # of Observers: ____

Was this a normal year for rain and lake levels? *(If no, please explain in comments section below):* Y N

NESTING INFORMATION		SURVIVAL		Comments
Nest Location <i>(island, shoreline, marsh, raft, cove, unknown. Please mark known locations on map)</i>		# Chicks surviving at least 6 weeks after hatching		
		Date of last chick sighting	__/__/__	
Date started sitting on nest <i>(known or approximate, MM/DD/YR)</i>	__/__/__	If pair re-nested, when? List known or approximate dates	__/__/__ __/__/__	
Total # of eggs laid by pair <i>(from all nesting attempts)</i>		Date(s) of any chick or adult deaths	__/__/__ __/__/__	
Date first chick seen/reported	__/__/__	Approx. date of any nest failure or egg losses	__/__/__	
Date 2nd chick seen/reported	__/__/__	Known or suspected cause of nest failure or chick or adult losses		
Total # chicks hatched by the pair		<i>(e.g., avian, land, or aquatic predator, loon intruder, nest flooding from rain, water mgt. or wake, human intrusion, etc.)</i>		

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Known Eagle Nests in Territory ____ Signage at boat ramps/landing(s)? Y N
 # Eagle Perch Trees in Territory ____ Signage at nest site? Y N

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: *(Please summarize any information you can obtain about the pair’s productivity in the last three years such as approx. nesting & hatch dates, known nesting successes or failures, chick and adult survival, known/suspected cause of death or nest failure, changes in nesting locations, incidents, etc. Also report any observed or reported changes in number or behavior of boaters and lake users, intruding loons, etc.).*

LOON INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Lake Name: _____

Observer Name(s): _____

Lake Town(s): _____

Phone #: (____) _____ - _____

MIDAS #: _____ *(Find MIDAS number at <https://www.lakesofmaine.org/>)*

Email: _____

Please fill out this form if human or animal behaviors caused a loon to leave its nest or chick, if a dead or injured loon is found, or if disturbance, harassment or predation is observed or reported. Please complete a separate form for each incident being reported. This information that will help us improve loon protection efforts!

Incident Details:

Date(s) of Incident(s): _____/_____/_____

Cause of Intrusion or Incident *(circle all that apply):* Tour boat Wake boat Fishing vessel Jet ski
Other motor boat Canoe/Kayak/Paddle Board Sailboat Sea Plane Onshore Activity Intruding Loon(s)
Land Animal (e.g, raccoon, fox, dog) Water Predator (e.g., snapping turtle) Avian Predator (e.g., eagle, raven)
Resident Day User Other, please specify: _____

Approximate distance from loon(s) or nest *(at closest approach):*

Direct contact Very close (<20ft) Close (21-50ft) Farther (51-200 ft) Distant (>200ft)

Loon Response *(circle all that apply):* Alert (head raised) Alert-call (vocalization) Head down on nest Hiding/floating low
Leave nest Swim away Escape Dive Aggressive Response *(chasing, rushing at intruder, penguin dance, attack)*
Wing Rowing Chick Stashing *(leaving chick to respond)* Other: _____

Type of Interaction: Collision Near Collision Nest Approach Pursuit/Chase Attack Entanglement
Chick Predation Other: _____

Description of the incident *(What happened? Who, what, where, when? Please attach any related photos):*

Outcome or Result: *(e.g., reported to wardens, rescue, carcass recovery, warning issued, local outreach, etc.)*

Signs of concern or stress



Head raised high in alert position



Hiding on the water; head down, floating low



Head down



Aggressive response